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Israel for next



Freedom

THE people of Langholm, Dumfriesshire, are keeping their fingers crossed for the man they want to make first freeman of their burgh.

For they have an ancient connection with astronaut Neil Armstrong (above), the first man on the Moon.

And next March he is due in Edinburgh for a couple of days to give the Mounbatten Lecture at the University.

His itinerary hasn't been finalised yet and Mr Edward Armstrong, town clerk of Langholm (and no relation), is hoping for a definite yes from Neil in the next few weeks.

He told Scene: "We first wrote to him 18 months ago after his moonshot, asking him if he would come and be first freeman of the burgh.

"He said he would visit Langholm

"Neil's immediate ancestors are Irish, but the Irish branch of the Armstrongs came from this area. He is bound to have roots here."

Town says good luck to moon man

AMERICAN astronaut Neil Armstrong — scheduled to be the first man on the moon next month — has been sent a goodwill message from his clan's home town.

A letter from Langholm town council has gone to the astronaut, who will command the Apollo 11 moon mission in mid-July.

Eskdale, in which Langholm lies, is the traditional home of the Armstrong clan.

Langholm's town clerk, Mr. Edward Armstrong, said: "The council agreed to write and wish him a safe trip to the moon."

He added: "The original suggestion came from an Armstrong in Glasgow, but similar suggestions have come to us from other parts of the country, and even Australia.

"We have also invited him to visit Langholm should he ever come to Britain."

Local councillor Edwin Armitage said: "It will take him a lot longer to get to Langholm than to get to the moon."

DAILY RECORD

earned GLASGOW HERALD

9 JULY 1969

AFTER THE MOON... SCOTLAND?

Commander Neil Armstrong, who will lead the mission to the moon in Apollo 11 next week, hopes to visit Scotland on his return to earth.

An invitation to Commander Armstrong to visit Langholm, Dumfriesshire, home of the Armstrong clan, was made by Mr Edward Armstrong, town clerk.

In his reply Commander Armstrong said: "I should fairly appreciate your invitation and hope that at some less hectic time I will be able to accept."

He added: "My mother has long been interested in the Armstrong family history."

Astronaut to get freedom of Langholm

Neil Armstrong, the American astronaut and the first man to walk on the moon, is to be granted the freedom of Langholm, Dumfriesshire, which is the home of the Border Armstrong clan.

He will be the town's first freeman

Provost James Grieve said yesterday: "We are not only acknowledging the achievement of Neil Armstrong but we are honouring the scientists and technicians involved in the moon flight and the American nation."

Mr Edward Armstrong, town clerk, is writing to the astronaut to arrange a date when he can visit Langholm to receive the honour.

Xmas 1969 ★ 16/6/69

NEIL ARMSTRONG, the American astronaut booked to be first man on the moon next month, is being invited to visit Langholm, Dumfriesshire.

Wry comment from Councillor Edwin Armitage after the council decided to make the offer: "It will take him a lot longer to get here than to the moon."

If, whatever the hazards of transport, Armstrong does accept, it will be almost a homecoming — the town is in the heart of Armstrong clan country.



children on the